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The Insects of Macau.—E. R. Easton. March 1993. University of Macau Publications Centre, Taipa, Macau. 58 pp., paper. HK\$100 (ca. US\$12.82), including air postage and handling. 1,000 copies printed; no ISBN.

Macau (English *Macao*, Mandarin *Aomen*) is the oldest European settlement in the Far East, but unlike Hong Kong, its boisterous neighbor 27 km east across the mouth of the Pearl (Zhujiang) River, Macau has never been a colony and was not won at gunpoint. Rather, this tiny outpost has persisted for over four centuries under the benign administration of the Portuguese, who make no claim to ownership. It

shows: few cities in Asia are more tranquil or attractive. Indeed, were it not for the faces of the people (97–99% Chinese, depending on mainland political conditions), a visitor gazing out at the South China Sea from one of Macau's luxuriant verandahs might well imagine himself transported to Madeira or some similar comfy hideaway. And for visiting entomologists there is now this book, "the first published work of any size . . . on the insect fauna of Macau" (p. 5).

The territory encompassed by this guide is minuscule. Macau proper is a narrow peninsula scarcely 5 sq km in area, but it is linked to the rocky, verdant islands of Taipa (3.4 sq km) and Coloane (7.2 sq km) by bridge and causeway. On the north shore of Taipa Island is the University of Macau (formerly the University of East Asia), and it is here that Dr. Emmett R. ("Slim") Easton has been observing insects since his arrival in 1989 on a visiting professorship.

The body of this book comprises descriptions and color photographs of 51 large, showy, or unusual insects—the species most likely to be noticed even by those with no particular interest in entomology. These are assigned to 27 families (number of species in parentheses): Gryllotalpidae (1), Gryllidae (1), Mantidae (2), Blattidae (2), Reduviidae (1), Pentatomidae (4), Largidae (1), Fulgoridae (1), Cicadidae (4), Pieridae (1), Danaidae (2), Papilionidae (4), Sphingidae (4), Geometridae (1), Arctiidae (2), Noctuidae (1), Syrphidae (1), Vespidae (2), Apidae (2), Carabidae (1), Buprestidae (1), Cerambycidae (4), Meloidae (1), Dytiscidae (1), Elateridae (1), Scarabaeidae (4), and Lucanidae (1). Authorities differ concerning the familial status of the largid *Physopelta gutta*; some (e.g., Hill et al., 1982, *Insects of Hong Kong*) consider this species a pyrrhocorid. Also, Easton has adopted the current broad classification of the Arctiidae, wherein the Amatidae (Syntomidae, Ctenuchidae) is reduced to a subfamily (Ctenuchinae). Unfortunately, the text is marred throughout by multitudinous typographical errors (e.g., "Portugese"), uncouth abbreviations (e.g., "P.R.O. China"), and outrageous (some would say laughable) run-on sentences that presumably only reflect the difficulties attending publication in a Cantonese-cum-Portuguese-cum-English environment.

Considering the meager resources available to its author, this book is something of an accomplishment. A large format (19 × 27 cm) and heavy, glossy paper complement the photos, which range from good to fair (several are too dark, obscured by shadows, or out of focus). As well, there is a great deal of information—gained firsthand—on host plants, mating behavior, development, and voltinism. But sensitive readers will be most drawn to Easton's numerous anecdotes, among them: scrounging for burrows of the cricket *Brachytrupes portentosus* in the United Chinese Cemetery (p. 8); accounting for the abundance of the hematophagous reduviid *Tria-toma rubrofasciata* near a campus garbage collection site, a harborage for rats (p. 13); recording the songs of Macau's several cicadas, still common in "hilltop forests" of Taipa and Coloane, while recalling how a prominent Chinese physician (Shi Jin-mo, 1881–1969) combined the exuviae of one species (*Huechys sanguinea*) with ground magnetite, sea shells, and a number of plant products to treat hypertension (p. 20); reasoning from bird attacks that the aposematically colored geometrid *Obeidia tigrata* is nonpoisonous (p. 35); remarking on the Chinese predilection for fried diving beetles (*Cybister tripunctulatus*) (p. 51); and speculating as to whether construction of a golf course on Coloane will benefit a local scarab (*Protaetia orientalis*) (p. 55).

It would be a disservice to conclude this review without reminiscing somewhat on

Dr. Easton's extraordinary career. Born in Bradford, Pennsylvania, he earned his B.S. at Penn State but soon thereafter left for Texas A&M University, where he acquired both his M.S. and the apt sobriquet "Slim" (which he fosters to this day). Then on to Oregon State, where this writer first met him wrestling with an impossible full-time teaching schedule and pursuing, with passion bordering on obstinacy, his professional focus: ectoparasites. Slim's scientific exploits while in Oregon have duly passed into legend. A real-life Indiana Jones of entomology, he would hurl himself from the merest dinghy onto Oregon's awesome coastal cliffs, scaling these for the sole purpose of collecting lice, fleas, flies and acarines from resident sea birds (1970, *J. Med. Ent.* 7:438–445). On the opposite side of the state, well past midnight, he could be found scouring the back roads of the badlands, ever vigilant for pocket mice, kangaroo rats, and their arthropod associates. Award of the doctorate only fueled his wanderlust. He immediately left for Tanzania, where he spent the better part of five years as an animal health officer, often under inimical conditions. With the fortitude of a Voortrekker, he sought out and rediscovered *Nuttalliella namaqua* (Nuttalliellidae), the so-called missing link between argasid and ixodid ticks and a species known from only 13 specimens since its description by Bedford in 1931 (*Parasitology* 23:230–232). This achievement, more than any other, established Easton's reputation as an indefatigable field entomologist. Perhaps out of breath, he chose to spend the next 12 years as an Associate Professor at South Dakota State University, but when that institution's Plant Science Department summarily folded, Slim armed himself with a Fulbright scholarship, spun the globe, and found his finger pointing at Port Moresby and the University of Papua New Guinea. There he continued his ectoparasitological investigations, despite increasingly ominous sociopolitical rumblings, before settling at last amid the comparative comforts of Macau. During two decades of turbulence, he had somehow also found time to publish over 100 scientific papers and reports.

In the last five years, Slim Easton has prepared about a dozen manuscripts on Macau's natural history. But what of the future? Sometime in late 1999 the Portuguese flag will be lowered forever along the Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, and Macau's fate will join with that of the People's Republic of China. To their lasting credit, the Portuguese have accorded virtually all native Macanese (some 400,000 souls) the right to return with them to the land of Dom Enrique and Vasco da Gama. Might there also be room for one productive expatriate American? Those who know him will hardly be surprised if "Old Slim" succeeds in trading Taipa for the Tagus. *Boa sorte, meu colega! Boa viagem!*—Richard G. Robbins, *Armed Forces Pest Management Board, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. 20307.*

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Proceedings of the Second International Congress of Dipterology.—L. Weisman, I. Országh and A. C. Pont (eds.). SPB Academic Publishing, The Hague, Netherlands. 1991. 367 pp. cloth. \$82.

Considering that the Diptera are one of the largest and economically and medically most important orders of insects, and that many entomologists study their biology